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The CIA success a surprise failure



THE CIA, WHICH was started by President Harry Truman to counter the wiles of the Soviet "spywar" apparatus in promoting international subversion, may have had its successes [in Guatemala, for example], but, insofar as the American public can judge from the part of the iceberg that shows above the water, it has never been noteworthy for its ability to carry off a really important covert operation. It messed things up in Albania, in Indonesia, and at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba.

But now we are being told, by journalists who never minded its failures, that it has accomplished something terrible by its success in "destabilizing" the regime of Marxist President Salvador Allende in Chile.

I find this an odd commentary on the journalists involved. If you are a patriotic American who remembers that we once meant business about keeping European powers from obtaining sinister beachheads in the Western Hemisphere, you might think that the CIA, at long last, merits a little public praise. But if this is the way you do happen to think, it merely labels you as a mossback who still believes there was a good reason for the Monroe Doctrine.

WHAT THE anti-CIA clique is trying to tell us is that the day of the Monroe Doctrine has gone forever. It is no longer our business to give help to Latin Americans who want to fight back against Marxist conspiracies dominated by Moscow or Peking whose aims are to close in on the United States and the Panama Canal from the southern part of the hemisphere.

The New York Times's Tom Wicker tells us that it is nonsense to believe the Allende government was anything other than legit. It did not try, so Wicker insists, to destroy opposition parties or newspapers. An innocent of innocents, Wicker has never read the late Garet Garrett on the subject of "revolution within the forms."

Senor Allende, a Marxist who came to power as a minority president with no real mandate to push Chile into Communism, had necessarily to proceed by working "with

almost succeeded in his policy of eating out the substance of his opposition by closing in on their methods of earning their livelihoods. The middle class and the Chilean trade unions reacted just in time to save their necks.

If the CIA really managed to give ponderable aid to Chilean believers in individual freedom in a fight against Marxist collectivism, then all honor it. But who, in the present Washington climate, can distinguish between a good covert operation aimed at sustaining our friends in the outer world and a bad covert operation undertaken against Americans at home? Everything has been confused by Watergate, with the effect that we are now being rendered helpless against the continuing Marxist

campaign to isolate Western Europe and the U. S. and take over the world.

Ed Hunter, the astute editor of a little magazine called Tactics, has recently reminded us of the CIA's long history of failure. Because it could not cope with superior Communist espionage, it sent men to their deaths in Albania and at the Bay of Pigs.

Skipping over the CIA's one great success in Guatemala, Hunter lists what he calls "Watergate-ITT" as another CIA bungling. We didn't act on the ITT offer to fend off Allende in the first place. The Reds, he says, pulled off a propagandist ten-strike when they managed to link a felonious domestic Watergate with the ITT's wholly legitimate concern for the fate of its properties in Chile.

SAYS HUNTER: "Our Central Intelligence Agency and the International Telephone and Telegraph Company should be rebuked for failure to act on behalf of free peoples everywhere, where this coincides with the survival of our own country."

This is one price we are paying for Watergate, and it is time that we become clear about it in our own minds.